Food processing units in Punjab

1323. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requests for starting food processing units in Punjab are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof in each case; and

(c) by when the decision on the requests is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) There are sixteen applications for setting up/modernisation of food processing industries in the States of Punjab which have been pending. This includes eight applications in the oil sector, three in the fruit and vegetable processing, two each for bakery and rice milling and one dairy processing unit. Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, the pending applications are being sent to the concerned banks from which the units have taken term loan for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are also being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units.

Setting up of National Institute of Food Technology

1324. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a National Institute of Food Technology, to address the growing manpower needs in the food processing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to promote food-processing sector in the backward States like Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, etc., to improve their rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) is being set up at Kundli, Haryana as an international centre of excellence, which will work synergistically with industry and other institutions within India and abroad to cater to the needs of various stake holders *viz.* entrepreneurs, industry, exporters, policy makers, Government and existing institutions.

One of the main objectives of establishment of NIFTEM is to address the growing manpower needs in the food processing industry. NIFTEM would be a prime academic institution in the areas of food technology, entrepreneurship and management. It would offer courses and training programmes of global standards with optimal mix of inputs on food technology, management and entrepreneurship.

(c) A vision Document 2015 on Food Processing Industries for the country as a whole has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision,

Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has been formulated for growth of Food Processing Sector in the country.

The Ministry has submitted Scheme for Infrastructure Development during the 11th Plan, under which, it will give financial assistance for setting up of Mega Food Parks, integrated cold chain infrastructure/value addition and preservation infrastructures. The Mega Food Park Scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as reliable and sustainable supply chain. Emphasis will be on creating infrastructure in rural areas to support such linkages ensuring better employment opportunities and income to farmers. Other thrust areas indentified for strategic intervention are establishment of Strategic Distribution Centres, modernization of abattoirs, upgradation of hygienic and quality street food and food streets, establishment and upgradation of quality control laboratories etc.

Action plan for enhancing capacity of cold storages

†1325. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared or propose to prepare any action plan, to enhance the capacity of existing cold storages in the country, in order to increase the sources of income in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated during the current financial year for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission on a comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for 11th Plan for providing financial assistance to various stakeholders for revamping integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels-farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centres. The initiatives undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. The Budget allocated by the Ministry (Budget Estimate) for Infrastructure development including Cold Storages during 2007-08 is Rs. 100.00 crore.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Cold Chain component of 10th Plan Scheme. The assistance under the scheme was limited to cold storages for non-horticulture produces, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere technology, cold storages as integral part of processing units or as a common facility in food parks.

Food processing industries

1326. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.